

# I Want to Believe • The Unknown

ACTS 17:21-33 (p. 770)

October 17, 2010

Week 2 of 4

"We don't need more logic or more evidence. We need a beautiful epiphany and a paradigm-shifting encounter." — October 10, 2010

PRAY • BERMUDA, BIGFOOT, ATLANTIS -> ALIENS! 1987, COMMUNION

It's the human condition to **seek** out

the unknown and make **sense** of it.

NEW PRODUCTS, NEW MEDICINES, SNAKE OIL, MUCH SPIRITUALITY • TODAY, I TELL YOU WHY

## Acts 17:21-33 (p. 770)

JOKE ABOUT LEAVING A GOD OUT • STOICISM'S UNKNOWABLE LOGOS & PANENTHEISM

The **unknown** God wants to be **known**.

1. There is a **spiritual** God who **created** all that is.
2. He gave life, location, and time to people so they might **know** him.
3. He is as **close** as **air** but is distinct from it.
4. Knowing him requires **repentance**.
5. All will be judged by the **resurrected** one.

EVERYTHING GOD DOES IS SO WE WOULD KNOW HIM • DO YOU LONG TO KNOW THE UNKNOWN?

## Four "Proofs" for God

### 1. Trustworthy = Hidden (not missing)

If God is spiritual, active and consistent, his activity will be explainable in "**naturalistic**" terms.

ILL: 3 WAYS TO CONTROL AN AIRPLANE, MECHANICS, ELECTRONICS, MONKEYS

NATURALISTIC REGULARITY DOESN'T CONTRADICT GOD, IT JUST MEANS HE'S TRUSTWORTHY

### 2. The Cosmological Argument

If anything **contingent** exists, there must be something **necessary**.

QUANTUM VACUUM IS NECESSARY, IS GOD, IS CREATED, IS WRONG.

CONTINGENT EXISTENCE REQUIRES SOMETHING NECESSARY & ETERNAL WITH THE ABILITY TO MAKE CREATIVE DECISIONS.

### 3. Resurrection means victory.

THE FIRST PERSON BACK FROM THE DEAD WINS.

If Jesus truly **rose** from the dead, his teaching is the **most authoritative**.

HIS FOLLOWERS DIED FOR A HISTORICAL CONVICTION, NOT A RELIGIOUS CLAIM.

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14

### 4. Relationship fills in the blanks.

IF GOD EXISTS, IF JESUS WAS RESURRECTED, IF HIS FOLLOWERS FAITHFULLY REPORTED HIS TEACHING, THEN I WILL BE IN THE DARK WITHOUT A RELATIONSHIP TO HIM.

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

John 12:46

## Take it home

God did this so that men would **seek** him and perhaps **reach** out for him and **find** him, though he is not far from each one of us.

Acts 17:27

THE UNKNOWN GOD WANTS TO BE KNOWN

What stage are you in? Seeking? Reaching? Finding?

SEEKING: COME BACK NEXT WEEK

REACHING: REPENT TODAY

FINDING: INVEST IN THE RELATIONSHIP BY INVESTING IN HIS WORD, WORSHIP, AND PEOPLE